

MOST LABOR LEADERS ARE NOT RADICAL

Some of the learned editors who are conning themselves into the belief that labor leaders like Gompers and Fitzpatrick are not representative because more radical than the rank and file, might as well wake up.

The rank and file are more radical than any of their leaders, just as the rank and file of the people generally are more radical than any of their political and newspaper leaders.

Gompers isn't considered a radical in the ranks of labor. Neither is Fitzpatrick.

We know of no labor leaders in the country who goes as far as the rank and file would have him go. In fact, most of the labor leaders spend much of their time and effort trying to hold the rank and file back.

In politics all of the leaders are behind the crowd, and when they get in front to lead they have to be pushed.

Men with their eyes open ought to be able to see that the growth of the Industrial Workers of the World is due to the fact that union labor hasn't been going ahead fast enough to suit thousands of the rank and file.

Even the Socialists have grown conservative because the crowd is traveling faster than they are, and much of their creed that was once considered radical has been adopted by all political parties.

The employers who are spending time, money and effort to crush labor unions are as blind as the bourbons. Every time they kill a labor union they start workingmen toward something more radical.

The opposition to Gompers and the American Federation of Labor isn't because he is too radical, but because he isn't radical enough.

The Lawrence strike ought to convince even the most stupid that the I. W. W. is something more substantial than a bluff.

Newspaper editors won't help the situation any by fooling capital into a false sense of security. It would be far better for everybody to have their eyes open and understand conditions as they are rather than as some of the timid ones would like to have them.

The plain truth is that labor—and we mean all labor, union or non-union—is desperately determined that it won't tamely lie down and starve to death. It is desperately determined to have at the very least enough of its own product to live decently and have some of the comforts and luxuries of life as well.

The demand isn't for a few more pennies a day. It is for industrial justice; and if labor can't get it through unions or the I.